



REBUILD IOWA OFFICE

RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

2/10/09

1. A **draft three-year budget for the Rebuild Iowa Office** is included in your RIO packet, and we have been told that your staff has created an excel spreadsheet for your use. We are happy to review the projection and any questions you may have. A salary listing showing the actual salaries being paid to office staff is also included.
2. A **Table of Organization** with actual names of people in the positions has been provided in your RIO packet. It also lists their comparable state position, and indicates whether they were borrowed from a state agency or hired on contract through Merit Resources. On the back of the chart is a contact list to help you know where to refer your constituents when they have questions.
3. **Please identify which of the people are on loan from other departments and your plan for either hiring those people or filling the positions with new state employees.**

There are currently 8 individuals on loan from other agencies or departments. The Volunteer Agency Liaison position will retain an FTE through IDED but be funded by the Rebuild Iowa Office through June 30, 2010.

There are currently 11 contract positions hired through Merit Resources. Five of these will require FTEs, while the remaining six positions are expected to be phased out by the end of their 18-month contract with Merit Resources.

The 12 positions for which we are requesting FTEs are as follows:

Chief of Staff

Chief Finance Officer/Human Resources

Communications Assistant
Communications Director
Community Planning Specialist (for 1 of 2 positions)
Constituent Outreach Director
Economic Recovery Specialist
Environmental Specialist
Intergovernmental Affairs Director
Long-term Recovery Director
Office Manager
Strategic Planning Officer

Once the FTEs are approved, we will work with DAS to post and interview to fill the positions.

4. What are your expectations for receiving federal support (and how much) in addition to the requested State funds?

The Rebuild Iowa Office has received \$3 million in administrative funds from the Economic Development Agency (EDA) for a scope of work that is described in the document entitled "Rebuild Iowa Office Reporting Requirements" found in your packet. We have also received \$850,000 in administrative funds from the first round of CDBG funds in Iowa.

The "Reporting Requirements" document also lists the additional reporting required by the Iowa Legislature. We have requested \$2 million in state funding to continue the office through June 30, 2011, our best estimate of when the office will close down.

We have no expectation that additional federal funding will be available for administrative purposes, although we intend to continue working to identify all available sources of funding for disaster assistance for the victims of the 2008 floods and tornadoes. However, should administrative funds become available for the Rebuild Iowa Office, State funding for similar purposes could revert.

5. Specifically, what will the future purpose be of RIO and what will be the focus of your operations.

The 120-day report from the Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission, included in the packet, provides information about the activities and focus of the Rebuild Iowa Office, which includes working to implement the recommendations in that report. The "Reporting Requirements"

document, outlining the expectations of the EDA scope of work and expectations of the Iowa Legislature, will also be a focus. The coordinating council established in Division IV of HF 64 will work with us to accomplish the goals set out in that legislation. That division of the legislation is included in the packet for your review.

HF 64 authorized creation of the Rebuild Iowa Office through June 30, 2011, requires that a transition plan for disaster recovery issues be submitted to the Governor and General Assembly by January 1, 2011, pending the elimination of the office on June 30, 2011.

draft